EL CABALLERO

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL

VOLUME LXVIII | NUMBER 8 | MARCH 25,1986

Math whizzes excel in national test

by Craig Wong

Among the 150 ECHS students who took the American High School Math Examination (AHSME), seniors Peter Yu and James Chiu, and junior Erik Finkelstein qualified to advance to a higher level of competition.

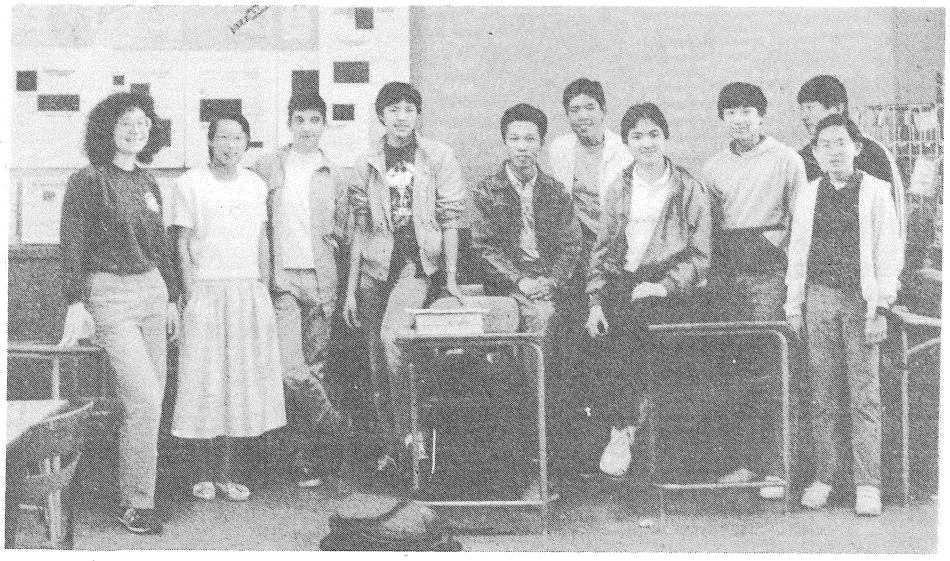
One plus one equals Yu.

The purpose of the AHSME is to find students with unusual mathematical ability. It is expected that less than 1% of the 400,000 students score more than 100 points to qualify them for the AIME from which they can advance to the USA Mathematical Olympiad. Yu, who went to the Math Olympiad last year, led all ECHS students with a score of 117. Finkelstein followed with 106 and Chiu scored 103.

The AHSME was a 90 minute examination of 30 questions. Students were given five points for each correct answer, two for each unanswered question, and no points for wrong answers to discourage random guessing.

Last year, Yu, in addition to advancing to the Math Olympiad, also qualified for a math "boot camp" at West Point. There, he listened to lecturers and took 11 three hour, 5 question tests. He was one of the top 24 math students in the nation. Yu plans on attending UC Berkeley, his 800 SAT math score his key to admission. His key to success? "Concentration. You need to concentrate to do well in these competitions."

Weird science



Science Fair Winners (l-r):Katya Weiner, Stephanie Lau, Shari, Kevin Gong, Peter Yu, Derek Mitsumori, Brian Jue, Ivan Cheng,Pota Chang, Brendan Choi.

Lawler leaves wrestling

by Robby Momono

After 13 years, Bill Lawler will retire from coaching wrestling but will remain at El Cerrito as a teacher. Lawler, the creator of the Gaucho grappling team feels that coaching is too time consuming and wishes to spend more time with his family.

With El Cerrito completing an outstanding season and having a bright future it might seem like a strange time to retire. But for Lawler, there is a very important reason for hanging up his coach's whistle. "I've got a three-year old daughter who needs caring for, and I share in that job. So its hard during the wrestling season, which is a long season, from November to March and through the holidays-- that includes weekends sometimes--it takes a lot of time away from home," says Lawler.

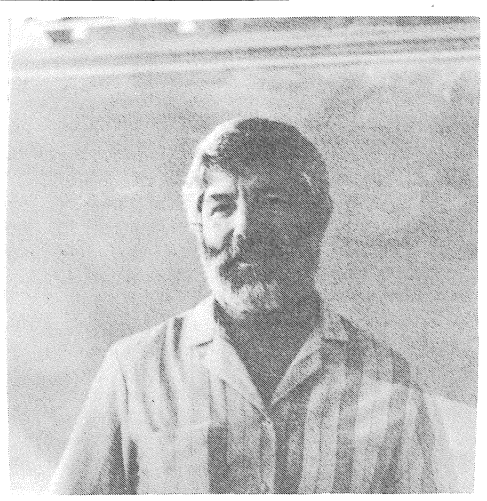
Although Lawler is retiring from coaching wrestling, he will continue to teach Algebra 1, Geometry, and Physical Education. "I think I'll really miss (coaching), but I can always do it again," explains Lawler.

Lawler began coaching for EC in 1973 and organized the Gaucho's first official wrestling team. He adds that getting the team started has been the biggest accomplishment in his coaching career.

Lawler has guided EC to five league titles and this year the Gauchos tied De La Salle for the dual meet championship-the league crown. After this successful season, what will Lawler miss the most? "I think just seeing the guys come out, not knowing a whole lot and feeling insecure and intimidated, and later gaining confidence and feeling good about what they learned," states Lawler.

A replacement for Lawler has not yet been determined. However, Lawler did mention Randy Takahashi as a possible coach for next season's team. "The guys would really like him I think and I think he'd do an excellent job," explains Lawler.

Senior wrestlers Derrick Calhoun and Robert Douglass, both transfers from other schools, were happy to have Lawler as their coach. "He's made a great contribution and will be greatly missed.



Lawler throws in the towel as a coach.

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FEATURES

Help for depressed teens

by Dmitri Mehlhorn

Today's society is complex and presents many hard and confusing choices for young teens. Many teenagers decide to take the short way out. There is a teen suicide every ninety minutes. Workshops do exist, however, to confront this problem.

On February 25, Dr. Alan Brant of the Contra Costa Crisis and Suicide Intervention Service addressed the PTA. The service has been in existence for many years, but the services they render, according to Dr. Brant is still vital. Recently, suicide has increased within the 15-20 age group to become the third leading cause of death.

Dr. Brant stressed many things during his address. The first point he made was that teenagers who attempt suicide are not mentally ill. They hurt terribly inside and do not know why. In fact, teens who contemplate suicide are likely to be intellectuals, even deep thinkers. Rarely do they do it to stick it to their families or friends; more often they simply can not see any alternative.

His second point was that it is important to listen and not to lecture. The kids have their own ideas and one problem may be that they simply are not allowed to express them. Some warning signs Dr. Brant mentioned include a complete change of clothes or food habits, unusually frequent complaints about physical ailments and a sudden desire to give away valued possessions.

He emphasized, however, that teenagers can mask their symptoms. Parents and friends must constantly push potential suicides regarding hotline numbers and available support. That's what the numbers are there for. The hotline numbers are:

West County: 620-0174

Central County: 939-3232

East County: 754-7080

Parents and families are not entirely responsible, however. Friends must be instantly available for depressed teens. John Quinn, Editor of USA Today, wrote, "spending time with the kids isn't the whole answer in the best of families", and in well-meaning but misunderstanding families, it's no answer at all. Friends need to know the warning signs and be ready to act on them. As adolescent medicine director Dr. Ken Schonberg pointed out, "when you get a bomb threat, you know that 999 times out of 1,000 there won't be a bomb, but you always evacuate the building. Same thing here. You always take a suicide threat seriously."

Senioritis strikes again

by Alice Wu

November 31 is over. Feburary 11 is over. These two important due dates are, for many seniors, the end of the past three and a half years' struggle. Now that we have sent out all our applications for college and financial aid, our life is in the hands of others. For many of us, we have no more control. This is a time of mixed feelings. We feel a sense of accomplishment yet we also feel the sorrow of leaving our friends and teachers from high school. We feel the excitement of beginning a new life in college yet we also feel the helplessness of deciding which college to go to. This is a time of massive confusion and this is a time of senioritus.

Grades that we are usually upset by are now satisfactory. A mere five point assignment in American Experience II no longer catches our attention. If we forget on the day that it is due--oh well. A Math Analysis or Calculus test with a C+ will usually be retaken. But now, it's close enough.

As the first few weeks of second semester passes and we have gotten a few C's, we begin to feel uneasy. Maybe it is because we are used to working hard and not use to seeinng so many C's or minus signs on our assignments. Maybe it is because we cannot let go of the competitive nature within us. Maybe it is because we know that we could have done so much better.

For whatever reason, this is not a good feeling. Some seniors will overcome it by

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getting used to it. Other seniors will shift back to their working mode. They may not be striving for an A+, but they are at least striving for a goal.

As seniors, we are thankful for this time. True, this last semester is still a time to learn. It is still a time to pay attention to lectures. It is still a time to read the text books. It is still a time to work hard. But more important, it is a time to learn about our attitudes toward life. It is a time to learn about ourselves.

Senioritis is a term used by seniors to justify their slacking off in their last semester of high school. For some, those that have not done well throughout their high school life, senioritis is finally an excuse that they can use. For some, senioritis is a way to make them feel more like a senior. It seems as though if you did not get senioritis, you are not a real senior. But for many seniors, senioritis is a state of confusion, of self struggle. There seems no purpose to work hard academically anymore; an A or C in a class does not affect our grade point average anymore. The point of striving for A's of taking advance placement courses was to raise our GPA so that colleges will accept us. But college admission offices do not look at our last semester. The purpose now is just to pass the class so we can graduate and a C would do nicely for passing. So we lay back and take it easy.

Teachers make "passes"

Teachers at ECHS often become irritated by their students frequent requests to go to the bathroom. Many teachers try to discourage these requests by embarassing their students. They do this by forcing the students to carry potty passes with them.

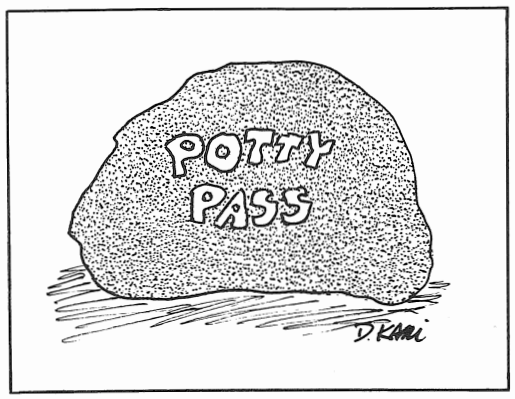
Here are ECHS's most original passes:

Mrs. Cone: 6 inch "Class of '84" button

Mrs. Anthony: large piece of granite

Mrs. Taylor: "permanent blue slip" on a small piece of wood with a ribbon attached to it so the student can wear it around his neck as he travels to his destination

Mrs. Hall: a small statue of a bull with "BULL" written at the base



Mr. Tobin: a large rock with the words "potty pass" etched into it

Ms. Parenti: a floresent green and orange tennis ball on a string

Mrs. Phelan: a coffee mug which says "homework makes you ugly. Homework makes you weird."

Mr. Giovannoni: a chalkboard eraser.

Mr. Fink: a small wooden relief sculpture of a toilet

Ms. Burgess: pink toe shoe

Ms. Kresh: a broken floopy disk holder

Mr. Fabini: a pair of tongs

Ms. Gosnell: in the past, a horse shin-bone

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Programs help students clinch jobs

by Tina Goldberg

As spring advances and the days stretch out toward the end of the school year, students begin to think of their summer plans. For many, these plans include getting a summer job. According to Work Experience coordinator Cate Burkhart, April is prime time to apply for work. This summer, a number of job placement programs, service jobs, and work skills classes are being offered to help students earn money and gain valuable training in the job market.

Many job programs utilize the private sector in employing youth. The Regional Occupational Program(ROP) matches local employers with high school students seeking jobs. ROP helps students, among other things, arrange interviews with prospective employers.

Students in Richmond can find jobs through the Richmond Private Industry Council. One part of the Council's program will feature the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program for low-income students 14-21 years old. The other section, the Mayor's Summer Job Program, will be available to all Richmond students 16-21 years old, regardless of income. Council organizer Marvin Wills noted that last year approximately 500 students participated in the programs. Applications will be available next week and must be returned by the beginning of the second week in April.

Many bypass the job programs and seek employment on their own. A number of jobs are in the service industry or out-of-doors. This summer, the East Bay Parks and Recreation System will employ students in jobs ranging from snack bar tending to lifeguarding. Tuolumne Camp of Berkeley and the El Cerrito Community Center are also seeking students to serve as camp counselors and lifeguards, according to Burkhart.

The most recent U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that approximately 40-60% of youth 16-19 are unemployed. Many students may find it helpful to build skills before seeking employment. The Career Development Center of Richmond offers job training classes during the summer in areas as diverse as childcare and computer programming. Burkhart also remarked that Vista College in Berkeley offers free classes to high school students.

Regardless of where or how a student seeks a job this summer, certain factors can spell either success or failure. "How well a student presents himself" is especially important to employers, remarked Marvin Wills. This includes filling out application forms neatly and accurately, and "dressing as nicely as one would for working," according to Burkhart. Above all, students should keep in mind that they are "selling themselves,"and should be, advised Wills,"as well prepared and tuned as a car or stereo;the students should sound well, look well, and work well." "Remember,"Wills noted,"that during the first 30 seconds an initial impression is made. Students should be prepared for that."

For more information about any jobs or programs, contact Cate Burkhart in the Work Experience Office.

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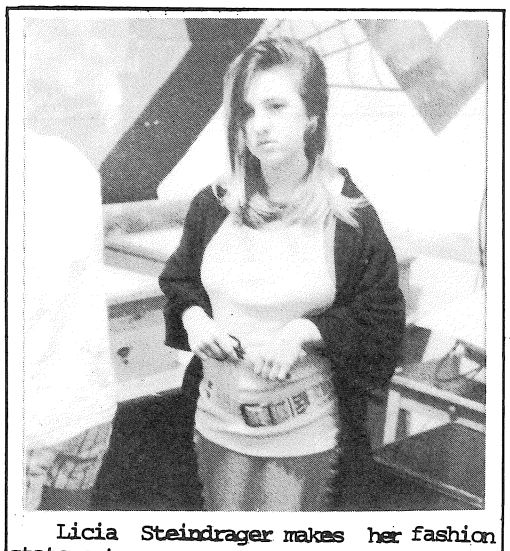
Guest Writer: Shani Yokoyama

The fashion statement

Since becoming a naive freshman at El Cerrito, I have seen dozens of fads come and go. I was there at the height of the notorious designer-label craze, when it seemed anyone who desired material acceptance from their peers possessed a perfect pair of Calvin Kleins or Jordaches. The famed alligator marched across countless chests, and the distinguished Polo Horseman followed not far behind. Although I have finally realized that fads such as these should not become the focal point of a teenager's life, I also realized that they are the things that encourage diversity among ECHS students.

In an age where many adults believe most young people either totally conform or totally rebel against fashion fads, it is refreshing to see the entire spectrum represented at our school. On one extreme end of the fashion scale, we have the Esprit love children wearing neon socks, and the primadonna Madonna wannabes who cannot pick a better role model. On the other end we have the obligatory thrash attire, most of which consists of basic black; maybe torn, maybe studded, maybe streaked--but it is still black. But what about the forgotten section in the midst of the two extremes? Most of this fashion wasteland is occupied by the "Trendies",



Licia Steindrager makes her fashion statement.

or as one student so bluntly put it, "Trendies are the kids who divide their time between Wham! and the latest from Depeche Mode." Another student haughtily sniffed, "Trendies can be found walking around in big-time Berkeley, visiting record stores and trying to look dead cool while holding some incredibly obscure British progressive-wave import and trying desperately to remember if its hit single was ever played in heavy-to-maximum rotation." Trendies also have a penchance for matching colors and patterns. The cutesy-pie Esprit clones mix patterns because it is "the totally latest thing," while the zombies in black never have to worry about mismatching because everything is exactly the same color.

While we have different fashion attitudes, it is also refreshing to know that we all accept each other for who we are and not for what we wear. Underneath our mass-produced outfits and combat uniforms lay some truly imaginative minds. If the whole world could see underneath the skin into the hidden, protected interior, I think that we would all get along better. Right now, that is what we badly need.

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SELFISH STUDENTS INVADE CLUBS

by Damon Fries

An attitude of caring and giving has recently developed in our society. On the surface, this may seem great, but if you scratch that surface a bit, it becomes apparent that this attitude of caring is sparked from selfishness and greed.

Recently, on the morning announcements, we were told of the forming of a new group at El Cerrito High School: SADD, the Students Against Drunk Driving. The announcement, trying to encourage people to join, partly touched on the fact that it could help people, but focused its main reward as "looking great on your college application." So, what happens? A lot of people show up for the meeting NOT because they are concerned and want to help prevent drunk driving, but because they need a little boost on their applications (as do these "Student Educators"). It is absurd that these organizations should bait students into these programs. It is not very effective to have a club filled with people whose only motivation is gloating over it on their college applications. It defeats the "purpose" of the club.

It's great that there are so many clubs and organizations for the student body to choose from, but I think it's sad how many of these organizations are filled with uninterested nobodies who contribute nothing, and are only willing to help out because there's something in it for them.

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SUMMER CLOTHING: BEFTY VS SKIMPY

by Dexter Billfold

Now that the nice weather is finally beginning to show, time has come for a change of clothing. Light clothing. But not too light. What some students often forget to show when they dress is a bit of modesty.

Although some students may disagree with the school rules pertaining to summer clothing, they were made for a purpose. One must remember that school is a place for learning and that while most may find skin-tight nylon shorts sexy, others may find it a bit distracting. And what of the school's reputation? Do people really want their school to be known for the way its dress, or don't dress, as the case may be? OK, some of you couldn't care less. But it could be more important than you think.

What you wear often gives you an image. When you strut about school in meager attire, you run the risk of either being ogled and admired for sexy legs or cute buns, or being recognized as a stud or harlot. That, of course, is the student's decision, but there are always limits, especially in a public school. A person may not want to look like a slob, but just doesn't stop to think about what he or she is wearing.

Loose top wear is often favored during the heat spells. Sometimes, however, the clothing is worn a bit too loose. Sure, it's hot! I can understand that the open space lets out a lot of heat. But when the neckline is cut extra extra low or the shirt is shredded in massive proportions, I would say it is a little inappropriate. I'm not trying to be prudish, but there are limits.

There are plenty of opportunities to wear as little clothing as you want. Outside of school. Let's not get too relaxed while we expand our knowledge.

Don't get me wrong; I like to see legs! But there is a time and place for everything and one must remember that you can dress sensibly and decently at the same time. All it takes is a little thought.

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El Caballero is an official student publication of El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury, El Cerrito, California 94530. The opinions expressed in these editorials are not necessarily those of the El Caballero or the ECHS administration. All letters to the editor must be signed; the writer's name will be withheld by request. For advertising rates, write to El Cerrito High School, c/o Journalism Department.

Thespians need commitment

by a disgruntled Thespian

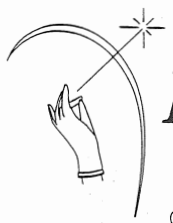
Commitment. That's what should be foremost in one's mind when one joins a club or supports an organization. Unfortunately, it seems that this sense of committment is diminishing rapidly. This has become most apparent to me in the Thespian troupe here at El Cerrito.

Several months ago, the Thespians, in conjunction with Forensics, held a spaghetti dinner and variety show to raise money. Out of about 30 Thespians, only 15 actually worked on the show. But that wasn't the least of it. This wonderful production, showcasing the Thespian talents, was only seven acts long, lasting just under half an hour. The audience had expected more when they paid their money. And why shouldn't they have? The Thespians had originally planned to run 22 acts. Fifteen groups of people backed out!

The Thespians are the group at EC that is supposed to promote excellence in the theater. With supporters like these, it is obvious why students would rather watch TV or go to a movie rather than attend the theater.

I've got nothing against people belonging to clubs in order to fatten up their college applications. I don't agree with that particular philosophy, but if someone is going to be that hung up on prestige, that's their problem. However, if these people are going to belong to clubs, they should participate. If some Thespians aren't going to help raise money, then they shouldn't help spend it.

This kind of commitment, unfortunately, is the norm for our society. We always seem to take the easy way out, and then say that we are doing the most we possibly can. It's a shame that things have come to this point, but in a society where we claim to fight hunger in Africa by buying an overpriced record, what else can you expect?



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Litter bugs me, too!

by Dina Murakawa

This year, El Cerrito faces a major problem in full force: excessive litter on and off campus. Even though it is a problem many schools face, this year is especially bad at E.C. Several complaints made by houses near Fred's, 7-11, and Burger King have threatened E.C. students with a closed campus next year if the situation is not improved.

I do not understand why people litter. Is it because there are not enough trash receptacles around? I don't think so because recently Chevron donated several oil drums to use as trash cans, and now there are enough to accommodate every area. I think it is because people are just too lazy and don't care what they are doing to our school. It is lack of pride in their school and in themselves.

The other day I was sitting on the baseball field eating my lunch with some of my friends. Two boys were walking by the tennis courts, going to Fred's. They took a trash can and dumped it over, scattering trash everywhere. They laughed and kept walking. Eventually, the birds came and began scavenging the garbage. The janitor then came and had to clean up the whole mess.

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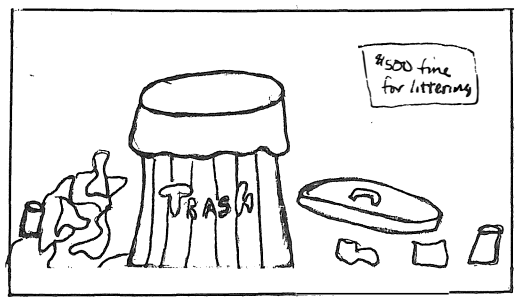
Even though the boys are not lazy, they show a rebellion against authority and a lack of pride. They probably know that litter is a bad problem at E.C., so they provoke it by dumping the trash.



If El Cerrito students do not try to solve the problem, we will be forced with having a closed campus next year. Let's show everyone and ourselves that we can be responsible enough to accomplish something. If we are capable of littering and trashing our school, then we are capable of cleaning it up. Do we really want to be forced to stay on campus next year? Let's make that extra-special effort to clean up E.C.

It amazed me how stupid and ignorant these people are. What do they think they're accomplishing by doing this? If people act this way in high school, what effect will they have on society after high school?

Should Open House be closed?

by Jamie Jung

How do you feel about Open House? Do you like it? Do you hate it? Well, many teachers and students think it should be abolished because they feel, for the most part, it serves no purpose. On the other hand, Administrative Vice-Principal Earl Boles disagrees with them, stating that it gives parents "a chance to see what's going on in school."

A teacher who was interviewed, stressed the fact that "Open House is a waste of time because it is too late in the year to accomplish anything." She also stated that "Open House is like a social event. We do not have enough time to talk to parents in depth. We only have time to say, 'Hello, your son's doing fine.' I'd rather use that time for conferences then for Open House. The only good things about Open House are the art and Science Fair presentations.

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School closure debated

by Dmitri Mehlhorn

A few weeks ago, several schools were handed the mandate to close down. All of the district schools have low attendance, so there was a strong financial necessity to close some schools.

The School Board closed Adams and Downer, and several very good elementary schools. However, the schools that could not provide optimum facilities for students should have been closed. Take El Portal and Fairmede for example. Fairmede is a rural school, far from traffic clogs and therefore much safer for the students in the very urban El Portal. The district however, closed Fairmede in favor of El Portal, regardless of safety, so that future students will have the campus close by. But since the only reasons for closing schools were financial ones, the district should have a least chosen physically sound schools over broken down ones. Unfortunately though, Fairmede is in wonderful condition while El Portal is still leaking water from when it flooded during the rainy season.

The district's biggest mistake, though, was in the junior high school category. Adams is probably the best public school in the RUSD, with a very supportive PTA and an efficient faculty. The discipline is firm but fair, the honor roll is above average, and it's in great condition. It was closed because it's "out of the way." Simple manipulating of the school attendance zones would have solved that problem, but it wasn't done. Instead of Adams, Helms was left open. Helms not only has a reputation for disorder and a low scholastic level, it was recently ravaged by a serious fire. Most estimates put it at thousands of dollars to repair. So instead of closing it and saving the money, they're going to pour money into it's reconstruction and close Adams.

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The only excuse the district had for closing the schools was financial necessity, but their choice of schools makes no financial sense. Not only that, but the district is disrupting scholastic schools and expanding rowdy ones. In the end, it is the students who will suffer.

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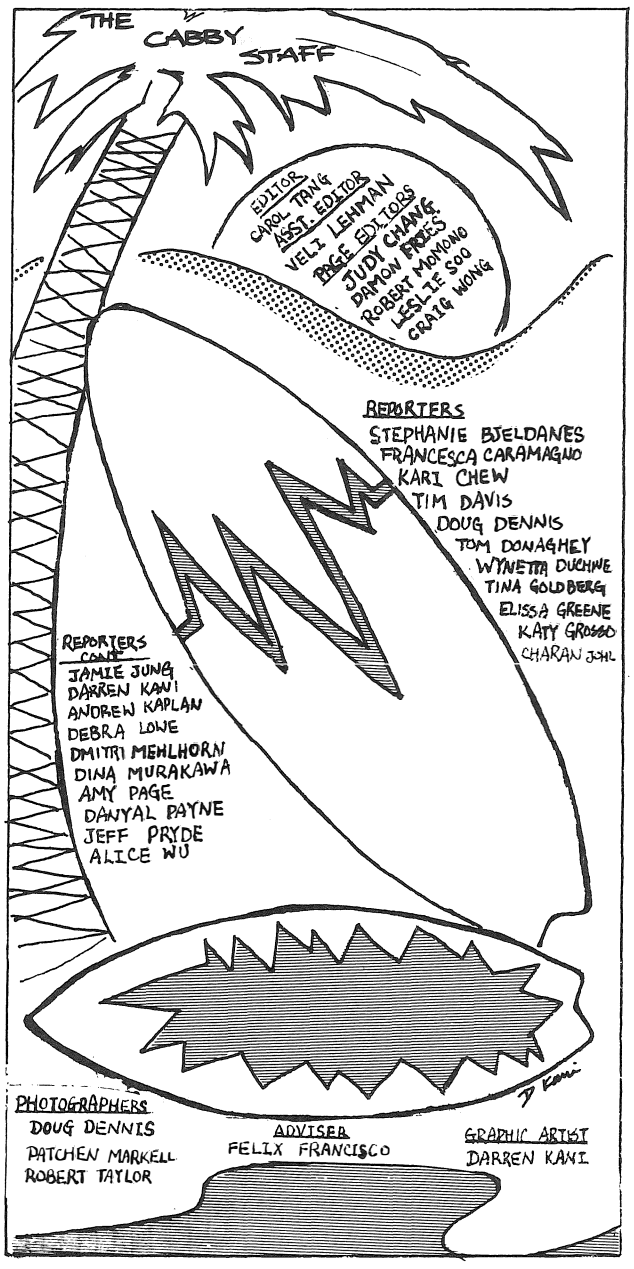


Pinole stifles EC bats, wins 4-1

by Amy Page

East Bay's No. 1 ranked Pinole Spartans dominated the Gauchos in their first league game of the year, winning 4-1. EC dropped under .500 for the season, 2-3 overall, 0-1 in league while Pinole continued its undefeated streak, 5-0, 1-0 in league.

Losing pitcher, junior Brad Brown put in a fine performance, going all seven innings, striking out six and walking only two but the tough Spartan offense hammered him for nine hits and four earned runs.

EC scored its only run in the first inning after Damon Evans reached base on an error and scored on Sean Prior's double to center. Pinole hurler, Corey Thomas, held the Gauchos to only one more hit the rest of the way as he struck out ten and walked only one. EC's Ben Roberson singled in the fifth but was thrown out at second on a failed hit-and-run attempt.

Pinole was sparked by cleanup hitter John Wills' three hits and three RBIs on a single in the first and a double in the third. The Spartans scored their final run in the seventh on three singles.

The Gauchos host Redwood, in a makeup game, on Friday the 28th at 3:30 at Cerrito Vista park. During Spring Break they play in the Easter Tourney at Marin Catholic.

In non-league games the Gauchos went 2-2 with two games decided in extra innings. Four games were cancelled because of rain but have been rescheduled for later dates.

In the season opener EC beat Hogan of Vallejo decisively, 9-1. The victory was highlighted by a one-hit ball pitching performance by winner Brad Brown and three ribbies by senior Damon Evans. Senior Ben Roberson relieved Brown and allowed only one earned run to wrap up the game for the Gauchos.

Erratic pitching and errors plagued EC in its second game, an 11-4 loss to Marin Catholic. EC gave up seven unearned runs, charged to losing pitcher Roberson, in the first inning and never caught up. Senior Mike Lawn gave up the last four runs to the Wildcats.

EC defeated St. Mary's, 2-1, in extra innings to up their record to 2-1. Winning pitcher Brown drove in Evans in the eighth, breaking the tie and winning the game. Sean Prior scored the first Gaucho run in the second and St.Mary's tied it 1-1 in the sixth.

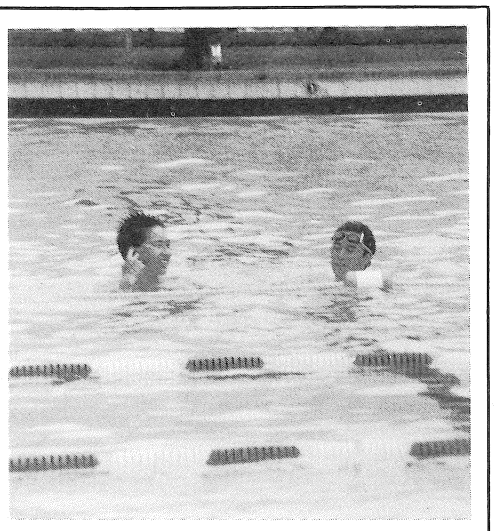
In another extra inning duel Albany thwarted the Gauchos chance for a win when the Cougars exploded for three runs in the eighth. Despite a valiant effort in the bottom of the inning when they scored one run, EC dropped the game to Albany, 5-3.

In women's softball, EC also lost its first league game to Pinole, 12-0. The Gauchos are 2-1 overall, squeaking by Albany, 13-12, and demolishing Piedmont 25-2.

Swimming is alive and kicking

by Jeff Pryde

The ECHS Girls' swim team started its season with a splashing victory over Piedmont 96-40 and a tie with Novato 77-77. The Boys' team was less fortunate, losing to Piedmont 76-62 and to Novato 112-48.



Swimmers Ken Hong and Seymour Liao rest after exhausting competition.

Freshman Chrissy Schultz, junior Carina Pastor, and senior Stephanie Bjeldanes paced the Girls' team. Schultz won the 200 free in 2:08.79 and 200 IM with 2:22.77. Pastor won the 100 free with 1:02.2 and 100 breast with a 1:18.67. Bjeldanes won the 50 free with 27.35 and 100 fly with 1:08.61.

Other ECHS performances included Kim Morrison winning the 500 free with 7:21.27 and Jennifer Wong winning the 100 back with a 1:23.7. The 200 medley relay team was also a winner with a time of 2:07.02.

The same trio paced the girls' team against Novato. Schultz won the 200 IM in 2.22:58 and 500 free in 5.40:20. Pastor won the 100 breast in 1.20:42 and placed second in 200 IM with a 2.41:03. Bjeldanes won the 50 free in 27.88 and 100 fly in 1:08.16

Karen Wilson won the 100 free in 1:07.52 and took second in 50 free with a 30.03 also for the Gauchos.

Sophomore Ken Hong and junior Seymour Liao sparked the boys' team against Piedmont. Hong won the 200 IM in 2:17.37 and won the 500 free in 5.26:15. Liao won the 200 free in 2:11.30 and 100 fly in 1:07.67

Hong also led the boys team against Novato, winning the 500 free with a 5:29.4 and 100 fly with a 59.54 edging out Novato's David Antongiovanni.

Dan Ward won the 50 free in 26.84 and Jeff Pryde placed a close third in 100 breast with a 1.15:87 for the Gauchos.

Pryde won the 100 breast in 1:16.81. Liao placed second in both the 200 IM with 2:36.4 and 100 breast in 1:16.81.

The Gauchos entertain Salesian at EC on Wednesday.

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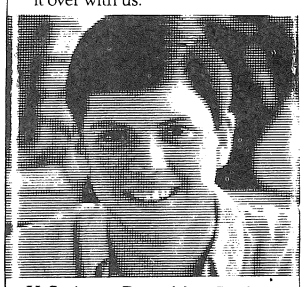

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Men's tennis looks good

by Craig Wong

The El Cerrito's Men's Tennis Team, for the second year in a row, has run into financial problems. The team must raise $500 for the coach's salary, and another $200 for additional equipment. But if the team does raise the money, the team looks to have another good season.

The team has set up the "servathon" in which each player gets sponsors to pay a certain amount for each successful serve out of 25 attempts. Hopefully the servathon will alleviate the money problem.

If the team does manage to get their act together the season looks bright. Last year, the team finished a strong second behind Berkeley in the RBAL. This year, things could change. A host of last year's varsity players are returning, including outstanding junior Chris Darling. Also returning to help the team in it's quest for the RBAL championship are varsity singles players Myron Mason and Don Danmeier, and doubles players Ignatius Loyola, Matthew Cone, and Craig Wong. Juniors Edward Aw and Anthony Gardner, and freshmen Tom Frank and Darius Nicks should help round out the team. With all of the returning players, and some new ones, the Gauchos should give the Yellow Jackets a run for their money.

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SPORTS CALENDAR

TRACK

DATE	MEET	PLACE	TIME
March 29	Stanford Invitational	Stanford	10:00
April 4	Fresno Bee Relays	Fresno	TBA
April 5	OAL Relays	Laney College	10:00
April 12	TBA	TBA	TBA
April 19	TBA	TBA	TBA
April 24	ECHS vs DeAnza	EC	9:00
April 26	West Valley Relays	Leigh	3:15
April 30	ECHS vs Kennedy	De Anza	TBA
May 3	TBA	TBA	3:15
May 8	ECHS vs Berkeley	EC	TBA

BASEBALL

DATE	TEAM	PLACE	TIME
March 25	De Anza	EC	3:15
March 29	Easter Tourney	TBA	TBA
April 8	Kennedy	Kennedy	3:15
April 11	De Anza	De Anza	3:15
April 15	Berkeley	Berkeley	3:15
April 18	Pinole Valley	Pinole Valley	3:15
April 25	Kennedy	EC	3:15
April 29	De Anza	EC	3:15
May 2	Berkeley	EC	3:15

Gauchos defeated in NCS playoffs

by Robby Momono

After struggling to a 47-46 win over Clayotn Valley , the ECHS Women's basketball team was upset by the Granada Matadors 48-40 , eliminating the Gauchos from the NCS playoffs.

For the second consecutive season , EC came tantalizingly close to playing in the championship only to lose in the semi-finals . Last year in the semi's, Bishop O' Dowd edged EC 46-45, keeping the Gauchos out of the finals.

The Gauchos held a 23-15 second quarter lead but Granada answered with six points before the half closing the lead to 23-21 EC. Halfway through the fourth quarter, the score was deadlocked at 37-37. But the Matadors went on an 11-3 scoring streak and EC couldn't comeback in the closing stages of the game. The taller Matador players seemed to make the difference in the game. Granada's 6-foot-2 center Amy Walter led her team with 14 points and sank a crucial rebound layup with 1:40 left giving the Matadors a 43-37 lead. Because of their height advantage Granada had numerous shots before Walter finally downed the shot. The Matador's 5-10 forward Kelly Barrett also tossed in 11 points.

The smaller Gauchos, whose tallest players are the 5-9 Schultz sisters were unable to play in the inside with the bigger Granada team. Freshman Vicky Kalu, a strong rebounder got into early foul trouble hurting EC on the boards. Linda Schultz led all scorers with 19 points.

EC beat a tough Clayton Valley team in the final seconds to advance to the semi's. The Gauchos dominated in the early going and took a commanding 39-16 lead into the half. Clayton Valley outscored EC 13-6 and 14-5 in the final quarters to get back into the game. The Eagles closed the gap to 46-43 but point guard Lisa Nakamura (only Gaucho on the All NCS tournament team) converted one of two free throws with 34 seconds left giving EC a 47-45 advantage. Clayton Valley's Kris Beil had a chance to tie the game with 5 seconds left but made only one of two free throws as EC held on for the exciting 47-46 win.

Clayton Valley forward Jenny Bader scored a game-high 16 points. EC was led by Linda Schultz with 13 points, Kalu with 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Nakamura distributed 13 assists.

Congratulations to the ECHS women's basketball team who finished with an outstanding 22-6 overall record.

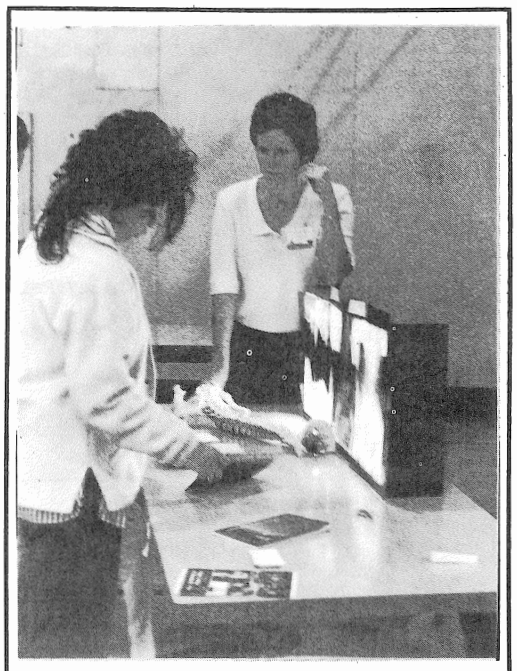
Health experts inform students

by Francesca Caramagno

On March 19th,1986 El Cerrito High sponsored the Health Career Fair. It was held for half of first period through third, and students had the oppurtunity to get information on health careers.

The fair consisted of thirty-three professional people from the health fields who operated booths where students could read up on and ask questions about each different health career, even ask about yearly income.

The Health Career Fair is basically to inform students who are interested in the health field what they can do to expand their health oriented horizons. It has proved to be interesting and helpful and hopefully will become a tradition at El Cerrito High School.



Elena McDonald examines X-rays on display at the Health Fair.

Juniors take Subject A

by Kari Chew

On Saturday, March 8th, English teacher Leslie Moitoza's 11th grade honors class and ten students from Mr. Greene's and Mrs. Protter's 11th grade honors classes participated in UC Berkeley's Subject A Test.

The Subject A is a two and a half hour test in which students write an expository essay. The essay is then read by an instructor and is commented on in great detail. The test is given to determine if the entering freshmen possess the skills to write up to the UC's standard.

"If students pass, a majority of whom will not, they will have met the requirement for UC Berkeley's Subject A course-- The Basic Composition Class. The students who do not pass, however, will have gained the experience of taking the test and will be prepared to pass when they are seniors," states Moitoza.

This pilot program is jointly funded by UC Berkeley's Bachelor of Arts Writing Project and the College of Letters and Sciences. It is not a regular program yet.

Open House

CONTINUED

Responding to that teacher's statements, Boles said, "Any parental contact in school is good. The reason that Open House is so late in the year is mainly because of two reasons: it's traditional -- it's always been at this time of the year -- and it gives parents who could not make it to Back to School night a second chance to come see what is going on, or visa-versa. If parents want to have an indiviual talk with a teacher, they should schedule a conference."

Also stressed by everyone interviewed was the significance of Back to School Night, which, according to a teacher, "is valuable because parents have more time to talk to teachers and because it is so early in the year, parents can learn about their son or daughter's new classes." Another fact that was emphasized by everyone was that Open House is probably better in elementary schools because teachers have more time to talk to parents individually since there are fewer parents to deal with.

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New activities planned

by Elissa Greene

An International Food Day, a Freshman Welcoming Committee, and the Blood Drive are some of the activities the Student Association has planned for the second semester.

The Spirit Committee is planning an International Food Day to take place this spring. Clubs and individuals will be invited to make food for students to sample.

A new committee has been formed to welcome next year's freshmen. The committee plans to hold an orientation at Portola, to revive the Buddy System and to hold a potluck at the end of May for freshmen and their ECHS buddies.

The Blood Drive, an annual activity, will also take place this spring on April 14. All healthy students aged seventeen or over will be encouraged to donate.

Two new activities at ECHS this semester have been the exchange day and Valentine's dance, both considered successful. On Exchange Day, students from other RUSD schools spent a day here and in turn some ECHS students visited other schools. The students had an opportunity to see how activities and classes are organized at other schools and to relay the information to fellow students.

The Valentine's Day dance was not a traditional ECHS activiity but it was successful. It was the first noontime dance here, and despite its spontaneity (it wasn't announced until the Tuesday prior), there was a sizeable turnout and the profits about fifty dollars. (Admission was 25 cents or free with an SA sticker.)

Many traditional activities have been planned and some new ones added with other upcoming activities including a theme dance, student and staff of the month and a spirit squad. The students in leadership are concentrating their efforts to see these activities completed successfully.

Lawler

CONTINUED

His teaching skills influenced me greatly, he made me a better wrestler mentally and physically," says Calhoun.

Douglass adds, "Lawler is a good wrestling coach and I'm sorry to see him leave, but I'm glad he went out on a good note, winning league."

Amer Moorhead and Bryan Singleton, both seniors and two-time league champions have been wrestling under coach Lawler since their freshman year at EC. Moorhead summed up his feelings by saying, "I hate to see him (retire) because when we came here we didn't know anything about (wrestling) and he showed us and guided us for four years. He was a very patient coach to say the least."